

AUTHORSHIP OF THE GENUS *PHYLLOTRETA*

(CHRYSOMELIDAE: COLEOPTERA)

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ABSTRACT—The correct author of the flea beetle genus *Phyllotreta* is Chevrolat (in Dejean, 1837, p. 391). The type-species, *P. brassicae* (Fab.) was designated by Chevrolat (in d'Orbigny, 1845, p. 6).

There has been considerable confusion in recent literature as to the correct author of the flea beetle genus *Phyllotreta*. Arnett (1962, p. 939, and 1968, p. 939) cited the author as Foudras, 1860; Gressitt and Kimoto (1963, p. 873) cited Stephens, 1839 as the author; Wilcox (1954, p. 465) cited Dejean, 1833 (date in error) and Blackwelder (1946, p. 693) cited Chevrolat, 1837. Although some of this confusion probably stems from the erroneous treatment in *Nomenclator Zoologicus* (Neave, 1940, p. 746), the exact cause in any specific instance can only be guessed at. In Neave's treatment the name is attributed to Dejean, 1835 (date in error), but is cited as being a nomen nudum and authorship is given to Blanchard, 1845. In the Dejean list (1837, p. 391) beneath the name *Phyllotreta* there are enumerated previously described species. This constitutes an indication in the meaning of Article 12 of the rules of nomenclature and thus serves to validate the name *Phyllotreta*. The situation fulfills article 16a(v) which defines an indication as follows: ". . . the citation, in combination with a new genus-group name, of one or more available specific names; . . ."

The confusion in the literature over the date of the second edition of Dejean's Catalogue is explainable due to it having appeared in sections from 1833 to 1837. Both the fifth part of the second edition of the catalogue (containing the treatment of the Chrysomelidae) and the third edition of the catalogue appeared in 1837 and are believed to have had the same publication date. The dates, validity, and authorship of the names in the Dejean Catalogue are discussed in an article by Barber and Bridwell (1940). In the Dejean catalogue Chevrolat is cited as the author of the name *Phyllotreta*. In the introduction to the third edition Dejean states (p. xiii) "Quant aux *chrysomélines* et à la section des *trimères*, M. Chevrolat s'en étant particulièrement occupé, je l'ai prié de vouloir bien m'aider de ses conseils, et j'ai adopté tous les genres qu'il a créés aux dépens des anciens grands genres *hispa*, *cassida*, *galleruca*, *altica*, . . ." This I interpret as crediting both authorship of *Phyllotreta* and the conditions

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validating the name (i.e., the list of species with available names) to Chevrolat, and I thus accept Chevrolat as author of *Phyllotreta*.

Chevrolat (in d'Orbigny, 1845, p. 6) designated the type-species of *Phyllotreta* as *brassicae* (Fab.), now considered a synonym of *P. exclamationis* (Thunberg). Authorship of the name *brassicae* (correctly, Fabricius, 1787, p. 78) has frequently been attributed to Olivier, 1789, p. 111. However, in the latter work beneath "*Altica brassica*" is given a description identical with that given by Fabricius for his "*Chrysomela brassicae*." Following Olivier's description is a citation for Fabricius' original description, so *P. brassicae* (Olivier) of authors is equal to *P. brassicae* (Fabricius).

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